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SIPDIS

FOR WHA/PDA, IIP/G/WHA, AND IIP/T/ES  
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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION ON IRAQ, NOVEMBER 8, 2004

1. Editorial in Tegucigalpa-based moderate daily "El Herald" on 11/8, entitled "Another Challenge in Iraq."  
"While President George W. Bush and his followers are enjoying his indisputable win, the occupation forces in Iraq have a difficult task at hand: conquering the rebel Sunni city of Fallujah through blood and fire after having failed for the past seven months."

"The problem is that, as usually happens to occupation forces, time is becoming their worst enemy, both because of their inability to ensure safety - which is shameful for the greatest power in history - and the fact that it would be a terrible failure for the U.S. if the elections scheduled for January can't be carried out. The elections in Iraq are a good thing for the Americans, even though they're merely a farce, just as in Afghanistan."

"We hope that, in the end, after so much death, pain, and destruction this senseless occupation has caused, the Iraqis themselves come out triumphant to reclaim their right to live in peace and under the government they choose in legitimately free elections."

Pierce